

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10
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P R 101530Z MAR 78
FM AMCONSUL STRASBOURG
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1154
AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
INFO: RUFJCX/AMCONSUL MARSEILLE 0025
AMCONSUL BORDEAUX
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UNCLAS STRASBOURG 79

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SUBJECT: FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS: A FINAL LOOK AT
MAJORITE BASTION AREA ALSACE.

REF: STRASBOURG 35

1. PARTY STRENGTHS.

THE LAST MAJOR POLL PUBLISHED HERE, ONE DONE BY IFOP AND REGIONAL
INDEPENDENT PAPER DERNIERES NOUVELLES D ALSACE, SHOWED THE FOLLOW-
ING FIRST ROUND POPULAR VOTE BREAKDOWN FOR ALSACE (13 SEATS):
RPR - 37 PERCENT, UDF - 18, PS/MRG - 25, PC - 8, ECOLOGISTS - 6,
OTHER RIGHT - 5, OTHER LEFT - 1. ON THIS BASIS THE PS WILL
HAVE DOUBLED REPEAT DOUBLED ITS VOTE SINCE 1973 (UP 12 PERCENT),
WHILE THE RPR AND UDF WOULD HAVE LOST 9 AND 11 PERCENT RESPECTI-
VELY. FURTHERMORE, PS GAINS CONTINUE IN THIS CONSERVATIVE AREA
IN TANDEM WITH THE PS/PC TIFF, AND THE PS AND RPR EACH SHOULD
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PAGE 02 STRASB 00079 101542Z

TAKE 1/3 OF THE 18-34 AGE VOTE. STILL, THE PS IS NOT EXPECTED
TO PICK UP A SINGLE SEAT UNLESS MAJORITE COHESION IS LACKING IN
THE SECOND ROUND.

2. TRANSFER OF VOTES IN ROUND TWO.

PARTICULARLY HARD-FOUGHT RPR-UDF CONTESTS ARE TAKING PLACE IN

MOLSHEIM, COLMAR, SELESTAT, STRASBOURG I, MULHOUSE AND MULHOUSE CAMPAGNE. THE IFOP - DNA POLL SHOWS ONLY 68 PERCENT OF RPR VOTERS CURRENTLY PREPARED TO VOTE UDF ON THE SECOND ROUND, AND 64 PERCENT OF UDF VOTERS VOTING RPR, 13-15% BELOW THE NATIONAL AVERAGE. ABOUT 25% ARE UNDECIDED, AND 10% READY TO VOTE PS. DIVIDING THE UNDECIDEDS IN HALF, WE GET A SECOND ROUND TRANSFER TO THE PS HIGHER THAN THE NATIONWIDE AVERAGE REPORTED IN PARIS 6015. THIS MEANS THAT SEVERAL PARTICULARLY VITRIOLIC FIRST ROUND RPR-UDF CONTESTS COULD LEAD TO VERY CLOSE SECOND ROUND CONTESTS WITH THE PS, EVEN ASSUMING THE LOWER RANKING MAJORITE CANDIDATE WITHDRAWS. TO BE SURE, FORMAL AGREEMENT TO WITHDRAW EXISTS (EXCEPT WHERE THE LEFT HAS NO CHANCE, AS IN MOLSHEIM AND SELESTAT), AND NO ONE IS TALKING PUBLICLY ABOUT SABOTAGE, BUT IRREPARABLE DAMAGE MAY HAVE BEEN DONE.

3. VIP VISITORS.

CHIRAC WAS HERE LAST WEEK AND DREW A VERY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FROM THE RPR FAITHFUL. MITTERAND (MULHOUSE), BARRE (MULHOUSE), AND LECANUET (STRASBOURG) ALSO DROPPED IN. NOW THAT THEY HAVE DEPARTED, WE ARE LEFT WITH THE SAME LOCAL MOTIVATIONS AND INCLINATIONS HOLDING THE KEY AS THEY DO IN THE REST OF FRANCE.
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